I CLAIM:

1. A method for monitoring a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, the method comprises:

(A) counting, starting at a first time, messages published in a first time period to provide a first count; and

(B) comparing the first count to signaling criteria.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising

(C) generating a signal dependant on the comparing of step (B).

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the signal comprises at least one selected from the group of a communication to a user in the form of an email, a screen display, a page, or a voice mail, a communication to a software

program in the form of a message, an email, an API Method Call, and a communication to a hardware in the form of a Message, an API Method Call, or Simple Network Management Protocol.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein in step (A) only a certain criteria of messages are counted.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(C) counting, starting at a second time different than the first time, messages published in a second time period, the same or different than the first time period, to provide a second count; and

(D) determining an acceleration that is equal to the ((second count/second time period)-(first count/first time period))/(second time-first time).

6. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

(E) generating a signal dependant on at least one of the second count, the acceleration, and the threshold value.

7. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

(E) predicting a future count using at least one of the first count, the second count and the acceleration.

8. A system for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, the system comprising a computer in communication with the network and comprising software that when executed instruct the system to:

(A) count, starting at a first time, messages published in a first time period to provide a first count; and

(B) compare the first count to signaling criteria.

9. The system of claim 8, further comprising instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(C) generate a signal dependant on the comparing of step (B).

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the signal comprises at least one selected from the group of a communication to a user in the form of an email, a screen display, a page, or a voice mail, a communication to a software program in the form of a message, an email, an API Method Call, and a communication to a hardware in the form of a Message, an API Method Call, or Simple Network Management Protocol.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein in step (A) only a certain criteria of messages are counted.

12. The system of claim 8, further comprising instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(C) count, starting at a second time different than the first time, messages published in a second time period, the same or different than the first time period, to provide a second count; and

(D) determine an acceleration that is equal to the ((second count/second time period)-(first count/first time period))/(second time-first time).

13. The system of claim 9, further comprising instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(E) generate a signal dependant on at least one of the second count, the acceleration, and the threshold value.

14. The system of claim 9, further comprising instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(E) predict a future count using at least one of the first count, the second count and the acceleration.

15. A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, said instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(A) count, starting at a first time, messages published in a first time period to provide a first count; and

(B) compare the first count to signaling criteria.

16. The medium of claim 15, further comprising instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(C) generate a signal dependant on the comparing of step (B).

17. The medium of claim 16, wherein the signal comprises at least one selected from the group of a communication to a user in the form of an email, a screen display, a page, or a voice mail, a communication to a software program in the form of a message, an email, an API Method Call, and a communication to a hardware in the form of a Message, an API Method Call, or Simple Network Management Protocol.

18. The medium of claim 15, wherein in step (A) only a certain criteria of messages are counted.

19. The medium of claim 15, further comprising instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(C) count, starting at a second time different than the first time, messages published in a second time period, the same or different than the first time period, to provide a second count; and

(D) determine an acceleration that is equal to the ((second count/second time period)-(first count/first time period))/(second time-first time).

20. The medium of claim 16, further comprising instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(E) generate a signal dependant on at least one of the second count, the acceleration, and the threshold value.

21. The medium of claim 16, further comprising instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(E) predict a future count using at least one of the first count, the second count and the acceleration.

22. A propagated signal comprising a plurality of instructions for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, said instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(A) count, starting at a first time, messages published in a first time period to provide a first count; and

(B) compare the first count to signaling criteria.

23. The propagated signal of claim 22, further comprising instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(C) generate a signal dependant on the comparing of step (B).

24. The propagated signal of claim 23, wherein the signal comprises at least one selected from the group of a communication to a user in the form of an email, a screen display, a page, or a voice mail, a communication to a software program in the form of a message, an email, an API Method Call, and a communication to a hardware in the form of a Message, an API Method Call, or Simple Network Management Protocol.

25. The propagated signal of claim 22, wherein in step (A) only a certain criteria of messages are counted.

26. The propagated signal of claim 22, further comprising instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(C) count, starting at a second time different than the first time, messages published in a second time period, the same or different than the first time period, to provide a second count; and

(D) determine an acceleration that is equal to the ((second count/second time period)-(first count/first time period))/(second time-first time).

27. The propagated signal of claim 26, further comprising instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(E) generate a signal dependant on at least one of the second count, the acceleration, and the threshold value.

28. The propagated signal of claim 26, further comprising instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(E) predict a future count using at least one of the first count, the second count and the acceleration.

29. A method for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, the method comprises:

(A) monitoring the messages;

(B) comparing the messages to signaling criteria; and

(C) generating a signal dependent upon the comparing of step (B).

30. The method of claim 29, wherein in step (A) only a certain criteria of messages are monitored.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein the signal comprises at least one selected from the group of a communication to a user in the form of an email, a screen display, a page, or a voice mail, a communication to a software program in the form of a message, an email, an API Method Call, and a communication to a hardware in the form of a Message, an API Method Call, or Simple Network Management Protocol.

32. The method of claim 21, wherein the criteria is derived from historical message data.

33. A system for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, the system comprising a computer in communication with the network and comprising software that when executed instruct the system to:

(A) monitor the messages;

(B) compare the messages to signaling criteria; and

(C) generate a signal dependent upon the comparing of step (B).

34. The system of claim 33, wherein in (A) only a certain criteria of messages are monitored.

35. The system of claim 33, wherein the signal comprises at least one selected from the group of a communication to a user in the form of an email, a screen display, a page, or a voice mail, a communication to a software program in the form of a message, an email, an API Method Call, and a communication to a hardware in the form of a Message, an API Method Call, or Simple Network Management Protocol.

36. The system of claim 33, wherein the criteria is derived from historical message data.

37. A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, said instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(A) monitor the messages;

(B) compare the messages to signaling criteria; and

(C) generate a signal dependent upon the comparing of step (B).

38. The medium of claim 37, wherein in (A) only a certain criteria of messages are monitored.

39. The medium of claim 37, wherein the signal comprises at least one selected from the group of a communication to a user in the form of an email, a screen display, a page, or a voice mail, a communication to a software program in the form of a message, an email, an API Method

Call, and a communication to a hardware in the form of a Message, an API Method Call, or Simple Network Management Protocol.

40. The medium of claim 37, wherein the criteria is derived from historical message data.

41. A propagated signal comprising a plurality of instructions for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, said instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(A) monitor the messages;

(B) compare the messages to signaling criteria; and

(C) generate a signal dependent upon the comparing of step (B).

42. The propagaged signal of claim 41, wherein in (A) only a certain criteria of messages are monitored.

43. The propagaged signal of claim 41, wherein the signal comprises at least one selected from the group of a communication to a user in the form of an email, a screen display, a page, or a voice mail, a communication to a software program in the form of a message, an email, an API Method Call, and a communication to a hardware in the form of a Message, an API Method Call, or Simple Network Management Protocol.

44. The propagaged signal of claim 41, wherein the criteria is derived from historical message data.

45. A method for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing machine specific messages, the method comprises:

(A) monitoring the machine specific messages; and

(B) extracting data from the messages.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein in step (A) only a certain criteria of messages are monitored.

47. The method of claim 45 further comprising:

(C) comparing the data to criteria; and

(D) generating a signal dependent upon the comparing of step (C).

48. The method of claim 47, wherein the signal comprises at least one selected from the group of a communication to a user in the form of an email, a screen display, a page, or a voice mail, a communication to a software program in the form of a message, an email, an API Method Call, and a communication to a hardware in the form of a Message, an API Method Call, or Simple Network Management Protocol.

49. A system for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, the system comprising a computer in communication with the network and comprising software that when executed instruct the system to:

(A) monitor the machine specific messages; and

(B) extract data from the messages.

50. The system of claim 49, wherein in (A) only a certain criteria of messages are monitored.

51. The system of claim 49, further comprising:

(C) compare the data to criteria; and

(D) generate a signal dependent upon the comparing of step (C).

52. The system of claim 51, wherein the signal comprises at least one selected from the group of a communication

to a user in the form of an email, a screen display, a page, or a voice mail, a communication to a software program in the form of a message, an email, an API Method Call, and a communication to a hardware in the form of a Message, an API Method Call, or Simple Network Management Protocol.

53. A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, said instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(A) monitor the machine specific messages; and

(B) extract data from the messages.

54. The medium of claim 53, wherein in (A) only a certain criteria of messages are monitored.

55. The medium of claim 53, further comprising:

(C) compare the data to criteria; and

(D) generate a signal dependent upon the comparing of step (C).

56. The medium of claim 55, wherein the signal comprises at least one selected from the group of a communication to a user in the form of an email, a screen display, a page, or a voice mail, a communication to a software program in the form of a message, an email, an API Method Call, and a communication to a hardware in the form of a Message, an API Method Call, or Simple Network Management Protocol.

57. A propagated signal comprising a plurality of instructions for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, said instructions

that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(A) monitor the machine specific messages; and

(B) extract data from the messages.

58. The propagated signal of claim 57, wherein in (A) only a certain criteria of messages are monitored.

59. The propagated signal of claim 57, further comprising:

(C) compare the data to criteria; and

(D) generate a signal dependent upon the comparing of step (C).

60. The propagated signal of claim 59, wherein the signal comprises at least one selected from the group of a communication to a user in the form of an email, a screen display, a page, or a voice mail, a communication to a software program in the form of a message, an email, an API Method Call, and a communication to a hardware in

the form of a Message, an API Method Call, or Simple Network Management Protocol.

61. A method for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages having a subject field, the method comprises:

(A) monitoring the messages;

(B) if the message subject field already exists in a current listing of subjects, then return to step (A); and

(C) if the message subject does not exist in the listing of subject, then add the message subject to the listing, and then return to step (A).

62. The method signal of claim 61, wherein in (A) only a certain criteria of messages are monitored.

63. A system for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, the system comprising a computer in communication with the network and comprising software that when executed instruct the system to:

(A) monitor the messages;

(B) determine if the message subject field already exists in a current listing of subjects, and if so then return to (A); and

(C) determine if the message subject does not exist in the listing of subject, and if not, then add the message subject to the listing, and then return to step (A).

64. The system of claim 63, wherein in (A) only a certain criteria of messages are monitored.

65. A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, said instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(A) monitor the messages;

(B) determine if the message subject field already exists in a current listing of subjects, and if so then return to (A); and

(C) determine if the message subject does not exist in the listing of subject, and if not, then add the message subject to the listing, and then return to step (A).

66. The medium of claim 65, wherein in (A) only a certain criteria of messages are monitored.

67. A propagated signal comprising a plurality of instructions for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, said instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(A) monitor the messages;

(B) determine if the message subject field already exists in a current listing of subjects, and if so then return to (A); and

(C) determine if the message subject does not exist in the listing of subject, and if not, then add the message subject to the listing, and then return to step (A).

68. The propagated signal of claim 67, wherein in (A) only a certain criteria of messages are monitored.

69. A method for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, the method comprises:

(A) monitoring a message coming from a messaging computer; and

(B) identifying the messaging computer.

70. The method of claim 69, wherein step (B) comprises the steps of (i) determining a message header; (ii) determining a message footer; and (iii) subtracting the header and footer from the message to provide the messaging computer.

71. A system for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, the system comprising a computer in communication with the network

and comprising software that when executed instruct the system to:

(A) monitor a message coming from a messaging computer; and

(B) identify the messaging computer.

72. The system of claim 71, wherein (B) comprises software that when executed instruct the system to (i) determine a message header; (ii) determine a message footer; and (iii) subtract the header and footer from the message to provide the messaging computer.

73. A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, said instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(A) monitor a message coming from a messaging computer; and

(B) identify the messaging computer.

74. The medium of claim 73, wherein (B) comprises software that when executed instruct the system to (i) determine a message header; (ii) determine a message footer; and (iii) subtract the header and footer from the message to provide the messaging computer.

75. A propagated signal comprising a plurality of instructions for gathering data from a computer network comprising at least two computers in communication with each other, and with each computer executing at least one software program publishing messages, said instructions that when executed by a computer instruct the computer to:

(A) monitor a message coming from a messaging computer; and

(B) identify the messaging computer.

76. The propagated signal of claim 75, wherein (B) comprises software that when executed instruct the system to (i) determine a message header; (ii) determine a message footer; and (iii) subtract the header and footer from the message to provide the messaging computer.